

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 03306 170736Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 CU-04 ACDA-12 IO-13 /103 W
-----018220 171324Z /40

R 160730Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4133
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
RUD
A/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 2602
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
RUDKFMMLPPAMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 274
AMMBASSY VIENNA 6006
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 3306

BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, CZ, PINS
SUBJECT: SEQUEL TO PRAGUE TRIAL

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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 03306 170736Z

REF PRAGUE 3032

1. OTTO ORNEST, CONVICTED OCTOBER 18 ON CHARGES OF SUBVERSION (REFTEL) APPEARED ON CZECHOSLOVAK TELEVISION NOVEMBER 13 AND READ A STATEMENT ADMITTING HIS COMPLICITY IN A PLOT TO SMUGGLE ARTICLES OUT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR USE IN EMIGRE PUBLICATIONS LISTY AND SVEDECTVI. TEXT OF HIS STATEMENT WAS PRINTED IN

RUDE PRAVO FOLLOWING DAY.

2. ORNEST REPUDIATED IN ADVANCE ANY ATTEMPT IN THE WEST TO
MAKE HIM A "FALSE HERO" AND CAUTIONED FELLOW CITIZENS AGAINST
THE WILES OF FOREIGN DIPLOMATS. HE CONCLUDED HIS MEA CULPA WITH
CONFESION OF HAVING "SUCCUMBED TO BOURGEOIS BANKRUPTCY."

3. FOR THE RECORD, SWEDISH DIPLOMAT SAID TO HAVE ACTED AS AN
INTERMEDIATE IS IDENTIFIED AS ONE JANSEN, NOT JOHNSSON AS
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (PRAGUE 3011). ORNEST'S STATEMENT ALSO NAMED
MRS. URSULA MOLLER, WIFE OF FORMER DANISH AMBASSADOR, AND
FORMER PAK DCM HASSAN; INTERESTINGLY, INTRODUCTION TO HIS
CONFESION SHOWED HIS TV-TAPED MEETING WITH FORMER CANADIAN
DCM BONTHON AND ANNOUNCER NOTED INTEREST OF CANADIAN EMBASSY
IN THAT TAPE, BUT NEITHER ANNOUNCER NOR ORNEST MENTIONED
BONTHON BY NAME.

4. COMMENT: WE CAN ONLY GUESS AT THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH
LED TO ORNEST'S PUBLIC CONFESION, BUT THE PURPOSE, CLEARLY, IS
TO IMPRESS ON LOCAL CITIZENRY THE PERILS OF CONTACTS WITH FOREIGN
DIPLOMATS AND OF ENGAGING IN COMMUNICATION WITH EMIGRE
PUBLISHERS IN ROME AND ELSEWHERE. MORE EXCERPTS FROM ORNEST'S
CONFESION MAY BE FORTHCOMING. SABYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL TRIALS, PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Expiration:
Film Number: D770426-0187
Format: TEL
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771152/aaaabsmq.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 625e3819-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PRAGUE 3032
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEQUEL TO PRAGUE TRIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, CZ, CSCE, (ORNEST, OTTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/625e3819-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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